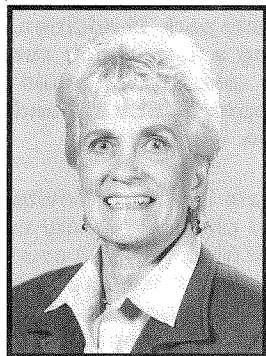


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



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April 24, 2006



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY VOLUNTEERS READY FOR SPRING CLEANING More than 2,500 dedicated groups including high schools, churches and fire departments volunteer to pick up Michigan highways each year. The crews are set to mobilize and take to the roadsides from April 22 through 30 for the first of three Adopt-A-Highway litter pickups scheduled this year. The orange-vested workers will pick up more than 5,900 miles of state highways during the nine-day period. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) supplies the volunteer groups with safety vests and trash bags. MDOT spends over \$4 million annually to remove litter from the state's roadsides, including the bags of trash collected from Adopt-A-Highway pickups. Additional pickups are scheduled for July and September. More Adopt-A-Highway groups are needed to pick up litter in locations throughout the state including US-24 near Monroe and US-23 through Monroe County. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to visit the MDOT website at www.michigan.gov/adoptahighway for more information.

DID YOU KNOW? The longest highway in Michigan is I-75, which runs 395 miles from the Ohio border to the International Bridge in Sault Ste. Marie.

MDOT CONSTRUCTION MAPS NOW AVAILABLE The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has released its annual construction map to help motorists navigate around major road and bridge projects this season. "Paving the Way" is available at MDOT's Transportation Service Centers and Michigan Welcome Centers. The maps will also be posted at state rest areas. In addition to the printed map, you can access a regularly updated list of lane closures on the MDOT website at www.michigan.gov/pavingtheway. MDOT also operates 24-hour pre-recorded phone lines with information about Metro Detroit and West Michigan road repair. Those traveling throughout the Detroit tri-county area can access information at 1-800-641-MDOT. For information about travel in west or southwest Michigan, please call 1-888-305-PAVE. You may also contact my office if you would like to receive a construction map or a regular road map.

SENATE VOTES TO SAVE STATE PARKS The Michigan Senate unanimously approved legislation designed to protect Michigan's state parks. Senate Bill 971 would require the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to obtain approval from the Legislature to sell a state park and any specially designated natural or wilderness area. The legislation would also require the State Park Advisory Committee study any DNR proposal to sell a state park. In addition, the DNR would be required to hold a public hearing in the vicinity of the park prior to proposing a sale. Under current Michigan law, the DNR is allowed to declare any land it owns as surplus land and put it up for sale. SB 972 would prevent the DNR from designating state park land as "surplus land" without specific legislative approval. SBs 971 and 972 have been referred to the House Committee on Conservation, Forestry, and Outdoor Recreation.

MICHIGAN'S CHILDREN TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL EVENT Children across the state have been invited to participate in ACES (All Children Exercising Simultaneously), an international school-centered physical activity event celebrated on the first Wednesday in May. At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 3, children from all of Michigan's 83 counties will experience the joys of exercise together with millions of children worldwide. Children in every state, and in more than 50 countries worldwide, will get out of their seats and get moving to help promote the lifelong benefits of physical activity. Last year, Michigan set the record for the most participants from a single state when 994 schools and more than 450,000 students participated in ACES. ACES kicks off both National Fitness Month and the Active Michigan Summer campaign, an effort to encourage residents to use the warm months of May through September to become or stay active. For more information, or to register your school for ACES, please visit www.michiganfitness.org.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail,
please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov